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SOIL EROSION—CAUSE AND EFFECT

Heavy rains and sweeping winds cause erosion on unprotected farm land. The effects may be seen in the form of fields stripped of the surface soil and cut by gullies. Contour farming and other erosion-control practices can reduce such losses and save land from abandonment.



Erosion caused by running rows straight up and down slopes. One hard rain caused the damage shown here.



Unchecked erosion leads to abandoned land and lowered standards of living. This once fertile land is now worthless.



Burning of pasture cover may lead to severe erosion.



Unproductive pastures sometimes result from overgrazing. Run-off and soil losses are higher under such conditions.



Cultivation of steep slopes results in rapid losses of fertility due to erosion. Topsoil washed off of fields by uncontrolled run-off water can never be returned.

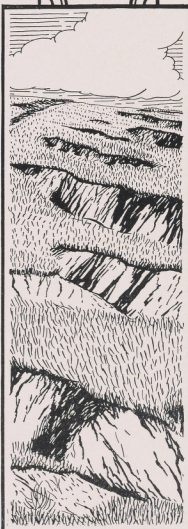


Chart No. 1



This was once a fertile cultivated field. It is now out of use for cultivated crops due to severe sheet and gully erosion. The cover is wire grass which has little feeding value.